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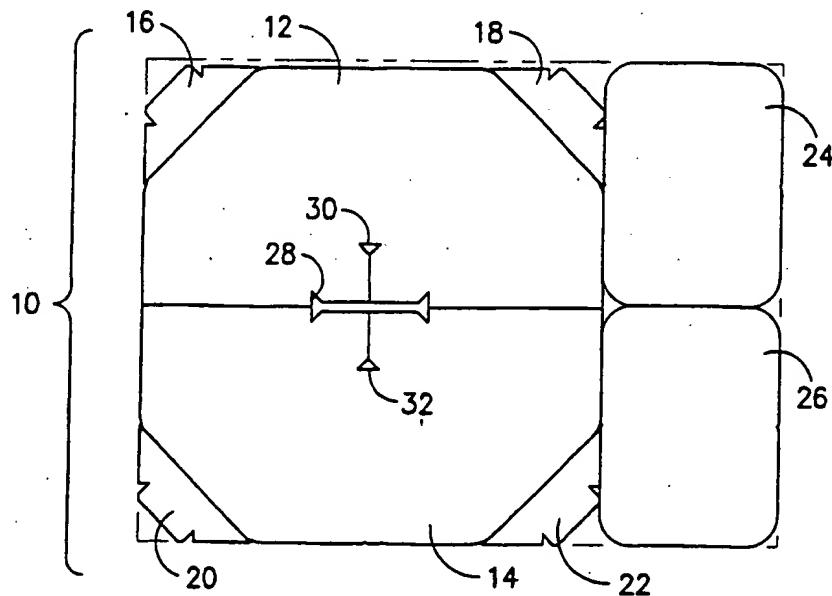
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(54) Title: PASSENGER AIRBAG AND METHOD OF FORMING THE SAME



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(57) Abstract: A passenger top mount airbag cushion which simultaneously exhibits a very low amount of fabric utilized to produce the target airbag cushion in correlation to an overall high amount of available inflation airspace within the cushion itself. These two correlative elements are combined in what is defined as an effective fabric usage index (being the quotient of the amount of fabric utilized in the construction of the airbag cushion and the available inflation airspace volume). A cushion exhibiting such low seam usage and fabric usage factors and also comprising an integrated looped pocket for the disposition of an inflator can is also provided as well as an overall vehicle restraint system comprising the inventive airbag cushion.



*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Application No

PCT/US 01/21409

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B60R21/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 B60R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 198 07 850 A (TOKAI RIKA CO LTD ;HOSHINO KOGYO KK (JP)) 12 November 1998 (1998-11-12) column 12, line 19 - line 55	1-5, 8-19, 22-26 6, 7, 20, 21
Y	WO 96 05986 A (BERGER JOHANN) 29 February 1996 (1996-02-29)	6, 20
A	page 14, line 4 - line 11	1-4, 8, 11, 13-15, 17, 18, 22, 25, 26
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
20 February 2002	11/03/2002
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  Standring, M

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/21409

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 11, 28 November 1997 (1997-11-28) & JP 09 188218 A (TSUCHIYA:KK), 22 July 1997 (1997-07-22) abstract ---	1
Y	EP 0 794 090 A (MORTON INT INC) 10 September 1997 (1997-09-10) column 4, line 13 - line 32 ----	7,21

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/USA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-12 relate to an air bag cushion defined by reference to the parameter effective fabric usage factor.

Present claims 15-26 relate to an air bag cushion defined by reference to the parameter effective fabric weight factor.

Furthermore present claims 5 and 19 define the cushion by reference to the parameter fabric utilization.

The use of these parameters in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT. It is impossible to compare the parameters the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible.

Consequently, the search has been restricted to an air bag cushion having at least one fabric component and an offset created by closing a slit notch or opening therein.

Present claims 9, 10, 23 and 24 relate to an air bag defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely reduction of seams and reduction of fabric usage.

These claims further lack clarity (Article 6 PCT) since an attempt is made to define the air bag by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 01/21409

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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			DE	19807850 A1		12-11-1998
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			WO	9605986 A1		29-02-1996
			TR	960170 A2		21-06-1996
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			EP	0794090 A1		10-09-1997
			JP	9323608 A		16-12-1997